

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /069 W
-----105527 151732Z /64

R 151515Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7287
INFO/RUEHCR/AMCONSUL DURBAN 2919
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 976

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF
SUBJ: KRUGER IMPLEMENTS INCREASED ACCESS TO DETAINEES PROPOSAL

1. ON MAY 11, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE JIMMY KRUGER NAMED TWO RETIRED JURISTS AS "WATCHDOGS" OVER TERRORISM ACT DETAINEES IN SOUTH AFRICAN JAILS. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, THE TWO JURISTS WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO MAKE "SURPRISE VISITS" TO ANY DETAINEE AND WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE MINISTER. KRUGER NAMED W.M. VAN DEN BERG, SENIOR COUNSEL, ANF FORMER ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF THE CAPE, AND A.J. MOUTON, FORMER CHIEF MAGISTRATE OF PRETORIA, AS THE MEN TO SAFEGUARD THE WELFARE OF DETAINEES. ACCORDING TO KRUGER, AS OF JUNE 1, VAN DEN BERG WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETAINEES IN THE CAPE AND NATAL PROVINCES, AND MOUTON WILL COVER THE TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE FREE STATE.

2. COMMENT: A PROMINENT CIVIL RIGHTS ATTORNEY IN CAPE TOWN TOLD US THAT VAN DEN BERG WAS A MAN OF HIGH REPUTE, VERY WELL REGARDED BY THE LEGAL PROFESSION. HE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A SUPPORTER OF THE OLD
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UNITED PARTY, THE SOURCE SAID, AND ALWAYS MANAGED TO PERFORM HIS DUTIES TO THE COMPLETE SATISFACTION OF THE PROFESSION AND WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE. THE SOURCE EXPECTED VAN DEN BERG TO PERFORM "VERY CONSCIENTIOUSLY" IN HIS NEW ROLE.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, OUR LEGAL CONTACTS IN THE

TRANVAAL CLAIM THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD OF MOUTON.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MOUTON SERVED WITH THE
DEPT OF JUSTICE FOR 45 YEARS UNTIL HIS RETIREMENT IN 1971.
NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SF, (KRUEGER, JIMMY)
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